

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
LONDON BUREAU

19 November 1948.

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To: [] Chief, FBIS

From: Chief, London Bureau, FBIS.

Subject: Report of Activities of London Bureau covering month ending
15 November 1948.

51-13

I. Implementation of recently proposed plans and policies.

A new duplex radio teletype channel between London and Washington was installed during the month for the joint use of this bureau and the Office of the Military Attache, London. Use of this new circuit effected an immediate improvement in communications, which had been steadily deteriorating until this point. Full wordage details will be found in section II.

This bureau continued during the month the special services outlined in previous reports for the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly meeting in Paris.

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A start was made during the month in the filing from Washington of Pacific material for []. This material, at first 5,000 words daily and then increased to approximately 15,000 words, is automatically relayed [] through the London wire room.

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This bureau completed the establishment of its own driving pool and now operates schedules for its own personnel []. This has enabled the editorial staff to increase the length of the working days, thus providing more complete coverage, and has also effected a vast improvement in morale among bureau members.

A representative of Services Branch conducted a property audit of this bureau. A complete inventory was made and everything was found in order.

A request from the Office of the Director of Intelligence, OMGUS, Nuremberg, was received for the daily German roundup. That office has been placed on the regular teletype distribution list.

II. Accomplishment of overall mission including firmly established individual objectives.

Because of the installation of the new radio teletype circuit mentioned in section I, wordage figures for this report will be divided into two sections, one through 2 November and the other commencing 3 November, when the new circuit became operative. From 16 October-2 November 534,459 words were transmitted over Army Signal Corps facilities via Frankfurt; from 3 November-15 November 131,277 words were sent in this manner.

From 16 October-2 November 218,996 words were sent via Western Union. After the new circuit was placed in operation, an additional 71,722 words were transmitted via commercial facilities, but these were restricted to the first four days of the period, and, since 6 November, it has not been necessary to transmit a single word via Western Union. The total figure for Western Union traffic for the month is 290,718 words.

Over the new channel from 3 November-15 November 281,517 words of traffic were carried.

The total traffic from this bureau to Washington amounted to 1,237,971 words during the month, of which 246,535 words were []. The total of material originating with this bureau amounted to 991,436 words.

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In addition 72,392 words were transmitted to Paris for the U.N. delegation and the American Embassy, while 63,520 words of the output of the report section were sent to regular clients in Germany.

III. Proposals for improvement.

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At the suggestion of the Washington office, closer coordination between this bureau and [] was to be effected with regard to coverage and cues. It is anticipated that this closer coordination will result in considerable overall improvements and considerably lessen the likelihood of duplicating activities by the two bureaus.

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